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MARCH 1984



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CCUG (Color Computer Users Group)

Meets: East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbott, E.L.

CHAOS (Capitol Hill Atari Owners Society) (MC2)

Meets: Third Saturday 9:30 AM

Foster Community Center, 200 N Foster, Lansing

Contact: Ike Hudson 351-3092

CHAOS Assembler SIG (MC2)

Meets: 3rd Thursday

Contact: Wendell Proudfoot 371-3678

CHAOS BASIC SIG (MC2)

Meets: 1st and 3rd Thursdays 7:00 PM

Foster Community Center, 200 N Foster, Lansing

CMTUG (Central Michigan TRS-80 Users Group) (MC2)

Meets: First Sunday, 1 PM

Library of Michigan, 735 East Michigan, Lansing

Contact: Sky Tribell 349-1857

M3G (Mid-Michigan Microcomputer Group) (MC2)

Meets: Third Thursday (usually), 7:30 PM

East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbott, E.L.

Contact: Joe Werner 337-7415

Executive Meetings:

First Thursday, 7:30 PM

Beggar's Banquet, 218 Abbott, East Lansing

M3G CP/M SIG (MC2)

Meets: Last Thursday, 7:30 PM

Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster, Lansing

Contact: Greg Martin 484-5850

M3G Heath/Zenith SIG (MC2)

Meets: 2nd Tuesday, 7:30 pm

Library of Michigan, 735 East Michigan, Lansing

Contact: Bill Goodwin 349-9657

M3G Osborne SIG (MC2)

Meets: 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 pm

East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbott, E.L.

Contact: Jim Pease 332-8746

T1 Users Group

Meets: 2nd Tuesday

Naval-Marine Corps Reserve Center

1620 E. Saginaw, Lansing

Contact: Steve Bennett, 377-1676 (days), 394-1439 (eves)

U.P.C.O. (Unknown Personal Computer Organization--IBM PC group)

Meets: 4th Tuesday, 7:30 PM

Contact: Dick Janson 323-7000 X 224 (days), 675-7453

NOTE: Clubs which are members of the Michigan Computer Consortium are designated by (MC2) following their names.

This listing is as accurate as the information we receive. To list an event or update information, contact Joe Werner at 337-7415 (evenings).

ABOUT ENERGY

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ABOUT THE MICHIGAN COMPUTER CONSORTIUM

The Michigan Computer Consortium (MC²) was formed in 1983 to sponsor joint activities involving computer clubs affiliated with MC². Current members of MC² are:

CHAOS (Capitol Hill Atari Owners' Society)
CMTUG (Central Michigan TRS-80 Users' Group)

M3G (Mid-Michigan Microcomputer Group).

Information about each of these clubs is published elsewhere in ENERGY.

EDITORIAL BOARD

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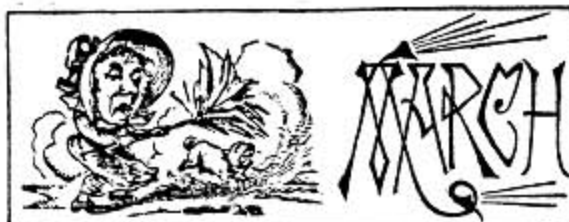
ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Persons wishing to submit articles are encouraged to do so! Articles may be submitted electronically via CompuNet, or in camera-ready form (3.5 inch columns, 16 characters per inch), or in other forms. Contact any member of the Editorial Board. The deadline for all articles is the 15th of the month preceding publication.



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C.H.A.O.S. IS:

C.H.A.O.S. is the Capitol Hill Atari Owners Society. CHAOS is the largest computer users group in the Lansing area. CHAOS meets every third Saturday in the Foster Community Center (200 N. Foster, behind the Dunkin Donuts). The meetings start at 9 AM and end around 1 PM. The presentations at meetings include new software, new hardware, and news. Business is limited at general meetings to make the meetings more enjoyable.

C.H.A.O.S. MEETINGS ARE:

FUN, EXCITING, INFORMATIVE, AND CHAOTIC

You will have to see a CHAOS meeting to believe it. The discussions are lively, with lots of news and information. The presentations are of general interest. The speakers arrange their presentations to be understood by the beginners in the group as well as the experts.

The presentations at any meeting may include word processors, games, data bases, educational applications, utilities, hardware, hardware modifications, and hardware enhancements. Many people did not realize they could upgrade their Atari 400 to 48K or 64K before they came to a CHAOS meeting.

There are experts and beginners in CHAOS and there are Special Interest Groups so people with similar interests can learn together.

C.H.A.O.S. IS YOUR BEST COMPUTER PERIPHERAL

In addition to receiving a monthly newsletter that will keep you informed of local, national, and international events in computers, you will have access to the largest Atari public domain library of programs in the world.

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The CHAOS library is growing every day. This can save you a great deal of time and money. Programs that you write can be added to the CHAOS library. If you would like a listing of the programs in our current library, please send a large self-addressed, stamped envelope. Include an extra 50¢ if you are not a CHAOS member to cover printing costs. Mail your request to CHAOS, PO BOX 16132, Lansing, MI 48901.

C.H.A.O.S. RUNS A BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEM

CHAOS, in conjunction with the Library of Michigan, runs a BBS. A BBS is a Bulletin Board System that you can dial into if you own a modem. The telephone number for this BBS is 373-6788. The BBS provides a means of leaving messages to other computer owners and a means of obtaining software from the CHAOS program library.

C.H.A.O.S. PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY

CHAOS has many books and other publications about the Atari computers that can be checked out by members. Each month CHAOS receives newsletters from other Atari clubs from around the world.

HOW TO JOIN C.H.A.O.S.

If you would like to join C.H.A.O.S. then fill out the Membership Application form found somewhere in this newsletter. Send the application with a check for dues to:

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C.H.A.O.S. NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE

If your Atari users group would like to exchange newsletters, then please be sure you mail your newsletter to the proper address. The return address on this newsletter is not the CHAOS exchange address. The individual clubs within the consortium are responsible for exchanges with other groups and are billed accordingly. Any information for chaos should be addressed to:

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BASIC USER GROUP

By M.Aldrich

The BUG meeting on Jan 5, 1984 went very well. The topic discussed was mainly SOUND. We had a RANA 1000 disk drive there to run a bunch of really nice sound demo programs. The color set that Sandy brought in really showed off the power of Marion's Atari 800. Mian was very helpful in testing out some of the sound test programs. Thanks everyone.

The BUG group in the future will be addressing more than just Basic. A few of the BUG members are also new disk users, so we will be learning the DOS (pun intended) and DON'TS of disk driving, so come on in. Got a program that won't run, bring it in, the BUG group is always looking for ways to learn.

In the very near future we might be gaining new members with other kinds of computers (Apple, TRS 80, etc). In most cases just the Basic language will be taught on these others.

The January 19 and February 2 meeting went well. COLOR was the main topic. BUG members got a feel for what the ATARI is capable of in the COLOR and graphics department. COLOR will be addressed more indepth in the meetings to come.

The February 16th meeting was cancelled due to the number of members that were going to be out of town. So March 1 & 15 will be the next meeting dates. NOTE: As you might have noticed, this report came a little late. Things got a little hectic when it came time to turn this article in (my wife had a baby) but at least you get the news, even if it is a little late.

REMEMBER: The Basic User Group meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month in room 210 at the Foster Community Center, so come and join us.



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Building a Better Basic A Review of BASIC XL

Part II

by Rob Peck

Last month, you may recall, we spent nearly three pages talking about my list of desirable improvements to Atari Basic and the phenomenal job OSS Inc did in meeting my desires with their new cartridge-based upgrade language, Basic XL. This month, I'd like to talk about the extra features they put in that I didn't have on my wish list and a few enhancements so wonderful that I never would have dreamed of asking for them even if I had thought of them.

First, for those of you who weren't here last month for whatever reason, I will recap my 10-point list of enhancements needed to make Atari Basic the best basic on the block. My list consists of the following items: string arrays, English error messages, block deletes, renumbering, INPUT with prompt, better DOS interface, trace option, better PRINT facilities, automatic line numbering, and user defined functions. Basic XL satisfies all of these except for the last.

Enough of this re-hashing, let's get into the new material. In keeping with my long-time tradition (started with my last article), I will begin this with a quote. Unfortunately, I couldn't find any suitable immortal words, so you'll have to settle for some seemingly unkillable words from RONCO, "But wait! There's more!"

The extra features fall into the same two categories we discussed last month in the article on my list, namely enhancements to the basic language itself and things designed to make program development and debugging easier. First, I'd like to tell you about several enhancements to the language.

Right up on top here is an extension to the IF statement. A normal IF looks like this.

IF <condition> THEN <statement(s)>

This is fine for simple actions: IF A>B THEN C=C+1. But when a condition necessitates many actions, you either have to have a long line with a lot of colons (IF A>B THEN C=C+1:D=D+1:E=E+1) or you have to use a reversed condition and a GOTO to skip over the code if the condition is true.

```
1500 IF B<=A THEN GOTO 1900
```

```
1600 C=C+1
```

```
1700 D=D+1
```

```
1800 E=E+1
```

```
1900 REM This is where we pick up again
```


Basic XL simplifies this situation with the IF..ELSE..ENDIF syntax. This is how the same code would look in Basic XL.

```

1500 IF A>B: C=C+1
1600 D=D+1
1700 E=E+1
1800 REM You can put
1900 REM any number of
2000 REM statements here
2100 REM They will be
2200 REM executed only if
2300 REM the condition on
2400 REM line 1500 is true
2500 ELSE: REM Here you can
2600 REM put a series of
2700 REM statements which
2800 REM will be executed
2900 REM if the original
3000 REM condition is false
3100 ENDIF

```

As you can see, this is a much cleaner approach. It allows you to test conditions without having to either clutter one line up with lots of statements or forcing you to test for the opposite condition and jumping over a bunch of lines. Here you have a simple condition and you can see clearly what happens if it is true, and, optionally, what happens when it is false. The colons after the condition following the IF and after the ELSE are required and must be followed by a statement. These IFs are nestable and can make a program's structure much clearer to a reader, even the author.

The next feature is somewhat similar, the WHILE..ENDWHILE statement. The WHILE statement is used to execute a group of statements repeatedly until a condition is true. It is somewhat like a FOR statement, except it does not have a predetermined number of times to execute. For instance, a routine to search a string for the first word in it might look like this.

```

100 DIM A$(100),B$(100)
200 PRINT "ENTER A SENTENCE"
300 INPUT A$
400 X=1
500 WHILE A$(X,X) <> " "
600 B$(X,X)=A$(X,X)
700 X=X+1
800 ENWHILE
900 PRINT "THE FIRST WORD IS ";B$

```

You can see that we don't have to worry about how big the first word is, the WHILE will just keep going until it finds a space. This simple example will, of course, not work if the sentence begins with a space or the first word is more than 100 characters long, but you can see that WHILE can be very useful. One thing I often do with it is wait for a console button to be pressed. For

instance, this one-liner waits until the START button has been pressed.

```
2000 WHILE PEEK(53279)<>6:ENDWHILE
```

One of the strong points of Atari computers is their player-missile graphics. Unfortunately, one of the weak points of Atari computers is trying to understand and use player-missile graphics. Enter Basic XL on a white horse. It gives you simple, Basic commands to: turn player-missile graphics on and off; set player color; clear a player; set player width and vertical resolution; save and load player shapes; and, most importantly, move a player quickly, smoothly, and easily around and off the screen. These commands take the place of many, many PEEKs and POKEs in normal Atari Basic and actually make it easy to create programs with players.

Another interesting and very useful feature is the FIND function, which searches for characters inside a string. Remember our WHILE example earlier to find the first word in a sentence? Let's try it again with a FIND.

```

100 DIM A$(100),B$(100)
200 PRINT "ENTER A SENTENCE"
300 INPUT A$
400 X=FIND (A$," ",0)
500 B$=A$(0,X-1)

```

See, it's even simpler. The FIND function [FIND (<string1>,<string2>,<startposition>)] searches string1 for the first occurrence of string2 beginning at startposition in string1. It can be useful for many things, like menu choices within a program.

```

2000 PRINT "ENTER Add, Change, or Delete"
2100 INPUT CHOICE$
2200 ON FIND(,"ACD",CHOICE$,0) GOTO 2400,2500,2600
2300 GOTO 2000:REM NOT A, C, OR D ENTERED
2400 REM ADD ROUTINE
2500 REM CHANGE ROUTINE
2600 REM DELETE ROUTINE

```

Additional enhancements to the language itself include DPEEK and DPOKE for dealing with two-byte addresses in one command and RPUT and RGET which simplify file manipulation in basic by allowing fixed length records to be input and output as a group without separators.

In the area of program development, Basic XL showed up with several features which weren't on my list but which I love dearly now that I've seen them. The first is one of my favorites, indented lists. Statements which are under the control of an IF, a FOR, or a WHILE statement are indented when listed to the screen or printer. This makes it much easier to tell just what the computer is

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doing. For instance,

```
1100 REM OTHER STATEMENTS
1200 IF A<B:D=D+1
1300 E=E+1
1400 F=F+1
1500 ENDIF
1600 REM OTHER STATEMENTS
```

Now, when looking at a listing, it becomes simple to tell just which statements are going to be executed if the IF condition is true or which group of statements are going to be repeated under the control of a FOR and a WHILE.

One feature OSS added to Basic XL which will, I am sure, please all disk owners is the elimination of the need for quotes around the arguments of disk operations. This means SAVE D:PROGNAME instead of SAVE "D:PROGNAME". It also works on the added DOS interface commands, like DIR D:*. * for a disk directory. A few moments of using this, and Atari Basic will never be the same again.

The next feature is truly a wonder when you're trying to debug or modify a program. The command LVAR will list all variables in your program to the screen and show where each is referenced. This cross reference list is especially helpful if you decide to change the name of a variable or are looking for an accidental misspelling which has your program tied in knots. This list can also be directed to the printer.

The last feature in this section of my report is LOWEN. This is a simple way for advanced programmers to move the start of their basic program up higher in memory to make space for machine language routines, player shapes, and the like. OSS has gone out of their way to make it easier to unlock the exceptional power and versatility of your Atari computer.

Okay, we've gone over my list and the extra features that were included over and above that list. We now have a very capable and comprehensive language. What could possibly be left? Well, there are a few features which are practically unbelievable and which I would never have dreamed of requesting even if I had dreamed they were possible. And here they are.

First is the SET statement. This is designed to give you an amazing amount of control over the computer and Basic XL by allowing you to set or modify various default conditions. There are SET commands to: enable or disable the BREAK key, vary the placement of the columns used by PRINT statements with commas, make players and missiles bounce off the screen edges instead of wrapping around to the other side of the screen, pick either a fifth player or four missiles, change the undimensioned string length from 40 to any value between 0 and 255 (0 makes it work just like Atari Basic, 255 makes it work just like Microsoft Basic), turn the list

indentation on or off, and more.

The next thing Basic XL does sounds really simple and not too exciting, but it has rapidly become one of my favorite features. Basic commands and variables can be entered in upper case, lower case, inverse video, or any combination of the three. Basic XL converts all basic keywords and variables to a capitalized, lower case word. This may not sound like much, but it makes programs much easier to read for me. For instance, taking this into account as well as the indentation feature, code entered as

```
1100 REM CALCULATE NET PAY
1200 IF DEDUCTIONS>GROSSPAY:GROSSPAY=0
1300 PRINT "TOO MANY DEDUCTIONS FOR GROSS"
1400 GOTO SKIPCHECK
1500 ELSE:NETPAY=GROSSPAY-DEDUCTIONS
1600 GOTO PRINTCHECK
1700 ENDIF
3000 REM PRINT CHECK ROUTINE
```

would list as

```
1100 Rem CALCULATE NET PAY
1200 If Deductions>Grosspay:Grosspay=0
1300 Print "TOO MANY DEDUCTIONS FOR GROSS"
1400 Goto Skipcheck
1500 Else :Netpay=Grosspay-Deductions
1600 Goto Printcheck
1700 Endif
3000 Rem PRINT CHECK ROUTINE
```

This, I feel, is a significant improvement in readability and contributes greatly to the ease of comprehension of a program.

Next, let's talk about compatibility. Amazingly enough, Basic XL is almost completely compatible with Atari Basic. An Atari Basic SAVED program can be directly LOADED into Basic XL and it will work. Even more important, a Basic XL SAVED program can be directly LOADED into Atari Basic and it will work so long as you have not used any of the extensions like WHILE or SET. This means you can develop a program using RENUMBER and LVAR and then put it in the library for everybody to use, even those without Basic XL.

Only two more features to go, but wait 'til you hear about them. First, Basic XL manages to give you all these extra features but doesn't take up any more memory than Atari Basic! That's right, not one single byte more. They do this in a real sneaky way. Atari Basic is an 8K cartridge, while Basic XL is a 16K cartridge. But this 16K is divided into four 4K blocks. One of these blocks is always active, the other three rotate amongst themselves depending on just what you're doing at any given moment such that only one of them is active at any given time. Therefore, Basic XL always presents itself to your computer as an 8K cartridge, the base 4K

block and one of the three rotating blocks. Anyway you slice it, Basic XL gives you a great deal more power and capability without costing you anything in terms of precious memory.

And, finally, Basic XL found a way to address one of the most serious shortcomings of basic (Note that I am talking about basic with a small b not Atari Basic), and that is speed, or more properly the lack thereof. Basic XL has a fascinating little command, FAST, which makes quite a difference in the way your programs run. There is no magic here, what Basic XL does is take a few milliseconds at the start of a program run and turns all line numbers in GOTOs and other statements into absolute memory addresses. This speeds up the execution of your program immensely.

For instance, let's use the infamous BABIES game from the CHAOS library and do a little comparison. If any of you remember the demonstration Guy Hurt did on basic compilers for the Atari, he used this game to demonstrate the increased speed available to a compiled program. BABIES.BAS, when run without the FAST option, took 13.7 seconds to kill three babies and halt. With the FAST option, it took 6.8 seconds to reach that point. The compiled version, BABIES.OBJ, took only 4.1 seconds. So, the compiled version still wins, but Basic XL is a lot closer to the compiled version than to the original.

Another interesting feature of the FAST ability of Basic XL is that it is automatically invoked when you RUN a program directly from disk. This means that you can take Atari Basic programs SAVED to disk and RUN them with Basic XL and get all the advantages of the FAST speedup. If a program is LOADED and then RUN, it must have an explicit FAST command embedded in the program to gain the speedup.

Whew! We're finally done! It doesn't seem possible that OSS could pack so many incredible features in one little (hideous orange) cartridge, but I for one am very glad they did. When you take these additional features and add them to the normal Atari Basic strengths like usable long variable names (some basics allow long variable names but don't pay much attention to them, TOTALDEDUCTIONS would be the same as TOTALWAGES or even TOYNUMBER or TODAYSDATE), syntax error checking at program entry time instead of runtime, and Atari's superb editing (ask me sometime about editing on the Apple //e at work!), you have a system that is a sure fire winner for both the casual programmer and the expert. A system whose features will support writers of business software and arcade games. In short, Basic XL takes the best computer on the market for general purpose home use and makes it even better.

If you have any designs at all on writing your own programs, run, do not walk, to your nearest dealer and buy a copy of Basic XL. It is flat out one of the best additions I have ever found for my computer.

LOCAL RETAILERS INVITED TO MEETINGS DISCOUNTS SHOULD FLOURISH

by Ike Hudson

Retailers in the Lansing area are being invited to attend CHAOS meetings. Actually they are being invited to bring their wares and sell them prior to meetings, during the break, and after the meetings. The idea is to give our members a chance to meet and find out about retailers in the area.

There will be some restrictions on this activity.

1. All sales and set-up must be conducted during the assigned times. Any retailer selling or setting up while the meeting is in progress will be asked to cease and leave. The only acceptable reply to an inquiry during the meeting is "I'll talk to you during break." or "I'll talk to you after the meeting."
2. All prices on items sold at the meeting must be at least 10% below the manufacturer's suggested retail. This at least guarantees our members a savings.
3. Retailers will be allowed to set up only if space permits. If the room is too crowded, the retailers may be asked to set up in the hall. The same rules apply on doing business in the hall. NOT WHILE THE MEETING IS IN SESSION!
4. The club assumes no responsibility for helping any retailer set-up, clean-up or secure the items brought for resale.
5. Retailers may not interrupt any presentation to announce a special price on an item. If one dealer makes a presentation and gives a price for the item being demonstrated, all other retailers must refrain from undercutting that price until the meeting is adjourned. This is intended to encourage presentations by dealers.
6. There will be no sales of pirated items.
7. CHAOS does not support or indorse any dealer. The fact that dealers are allowed to sell to our members before the meeting does not imply our support or endorsement of that dealer. It is the dealers responsibility to support the products they sell. The club does not endorse any product or dealer.

This is intended to be a service to our members. If it is disruptive to our meetings or if this privilege is abused it will be stopped as quickly as it was started. If you know a dealer who might like to sell his computer wares at our meeting, then invite them. If they don't advertise in this newsletter, then encourage them to do so. If they don't advertise, then how do they think they will get our members business? Why should we support them if they don't support us?!

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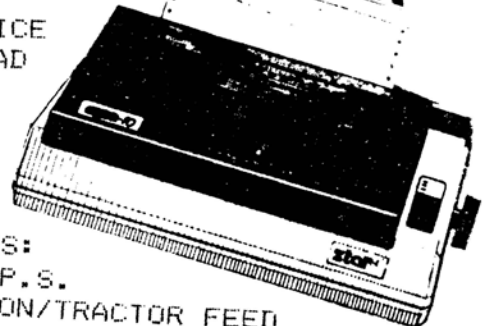
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Questions & Answers

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QUESTION - We voted at a meeting to buy a projection TV for meetings and a disk drive for the BBS. Has either been purchased, and if not, why not?

ANSWER - Neither has been purchased at this time. We have not been able to find a projection TV that will work well enough at a cost that the club can afford. If we do, we will buy it. In the meantime, Lance Ward is making a cable that will allow us to connect 4 TVs or monitors to one system for demos.

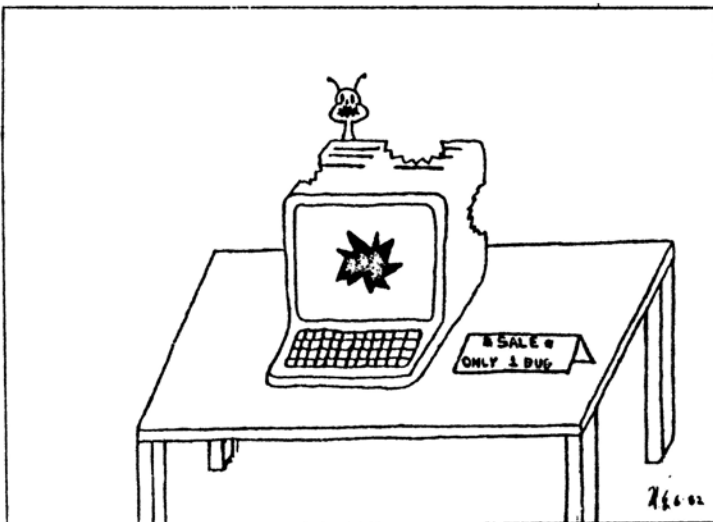
The disk drive was not purchased because the projection TV had priority. As soon as Lance completes the cables we will purchase the disk drive for the BBS.

QUESTION - Why doesn't the club buy more books and magazines for members to check out and read?

ANSWER - The club buys books and magazine subscriptions based on the club budget and member demands. We have some money that could be used to buy books, but no one has made up a list of proposed purchases. If someone makes such a list, we can submit it to the members and get their reaction. Once prioritized, it is just a matter of placing orders as the money is available. Who will start the ball rolling?

QUESTION - Why aren't there more software reviews in the newsletter?

ANSWER - We can only print what is submitted!



REPRINTED FROM L.A. ACE NEWSLETTER

QUESTION - Why doesn't the club buy some popular software and check it out to members or rent it to members?

ANSWER - I will have to answer this one with some questions. Which software? Who will control it? How much do we charge for it? How do we maintain it? Who gets it first? Who wants to try to organize this one??

QUESTION - What happened to the CHAOS T-shirts that I used to hear about and occasionally see?

ANSWER - Good question. Lance Ward is taking orders for the CHAOS T-shirts. No one has ordered one in several months!

QUESTION - Why is there always so much emphasis on getting more members? Aren't we already large enough?

ANSWER - The larger clubs receive free copies of software and even some hardware for evaluation purposes. This is then given away via drawings or is sold to bolster the club treasury. The MACE (Detroit) and ACE (Eugene, Or) BBS systems were built on donated equipment. If the club is large enough, the manufacturers and large stores will take notice. No, we are not large enough yet, but we are getting there!

QUESTION - If we need more members why don't we offer some recruiting incentives or have a recruiting contest?

ANSWER - We tried a contest about 4 months ago. There were only two new members that were recruited as a direct result. This was not even enough to justify buying a prize! If there were more than that, they didn't put the recruiters name on the application form! We considered having an incentive program, but couldn't find anything that would be a good incentive and not cost very much. Remember, our dues are only \$12.00 and we need every penny of that to provide the services we are providing now.

QUESTION - Why don't we have a HOTLINE to leave questions on like MACE does?

ANSWER - We aren't big enough and our dues are lower. We have about 160 members paying \$12.00 per year. MACE has about 1200 members paying \$20.00 per year. It costs a lot to have a phone line and answering machine available 24 hours a day. It is a nice frill, but not a necessity.

QUESTION - Why don't we have classes for beginners?

It is very hard to learn about the computer on your own if you don't have a computer background.

ANSWER - CHAOS is the only group in the area that offers free classes for beginners. The class teaches beginners how to use the Atari and Atari BASIC. It is called the Basic Users Group (BUG). BUG meets every first and third Thursday at 7:30 in the Foster Community Center. There has been limited interest. This group may fold in the next few months if there are no beginners to keep it going! Call Mike Aldrich 394-2412 for more information.

QUESTION - I just bought a new 800XL and there are no manuals with it. What is the best book to buy so I can learn how to use my computer?

ANSWER - There are many that can be helpful. The best single source for the Atari is "Your Atari Computer" by Lon Poole. The best for the true beginner and for children is probably "Kids and the Atari" by Ed Carlson (a member of CHAOS). There is a copy of "Kids and the Atari" in the library if you would like to look at it before you buy it. Both of these books are available at stores that advertise in ENERGY. Tell them you saw their ad in ENERGY if you buy a copy.

QUESTION - I submitted an article for the last newsletter. It didn't get in and I want to know why.

ANSWER - It was late and incorrectly formatted. The editor did not have time to retype the article and rip apart the pages that were ready to go in order to insert an article that was turned in 6 days after the deadline. We want and need articles, but not bad enough to redo the work that has been done. Please have some consideration for the editor. He does the best he can with what is submitted.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED: I would like to purchase a good, used Atari 810 Disk Drive. Price negotiable. Call Mike Aldrich (517) 394-2412

FOR SALE: Voicebox II with software \$90.00. Make your Atari talk or sing. Call Ike Hudson (517) 351-3092.

MEMBERS OF MC2 AFFILIATED GROUPS PUT YOUR CLASSIFIED AD HERE FREE.

FOR SALE: Atari 600 with 64K upgrade only \$235. Call Lance Ward 393-1357

QUESTION - If I write an article for the newsletter can I be guaranteed that it will be printed in the next issue?

ANSWER - Maybe! If it is submitted before the deadline, if it is printed in the correct format or submitted on disk, if it is factually correct, and does not contain too many grammatical errors or misspellings, and if there is space, it will be printed in the next issue. There is usually space and the editor will make minor corrections if the text is on disk. The biggest problem is time. The next issue of ENERGY has already been put together by the time we have our meetings take place. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month. The format is what you see in these pages. Other formats may be accepted if they are submitted in a timely manner.

QUESTION - Why aren't there more articles about what the SIGs are doing?

ANSWER - No one in the SIGs writes and submits them.

If you have any questions (or answers) send them to CHAOS, ATTN: QUESTIONS & ANSWERS, P O BOX 16132, Lansing, MI 48901. We will try to find someone who can answer your question and print the answer right here in the next issue of ENERGY.

JOIN THE USER GROUP OF YOUR CHOICE

If you would like to join one of the Michigan Computer Consortium groups, please fill out the application below and mail it to MC2, P O Box 1302, East Lansing, 48823

Check the box next to the club you are joining.

☐ Capitol Hill Atari Owners Society - CHAOS (\$12.00)
☐ Central Michigan TRS 80 Users Group - CMTUG (\$12.00)
☐ Mid-Michigan Micro-Computer Group - M3G (\$12.00)

NAME: _____

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Type Computer: _____

Mail w/check to: MC2, PO Box 1302, E. Lansing, MI 48823

**TARICON WILL BE 25 & 26 AUG 1984
LOCATION - SOUTHFIELD CIVIC CENTER**

by Ike Hudson

Yes, there will be a Taricon this year. We will have it on a Saturday and Sunday in the Southfield Civic Center. This is near Detroit, but just enough outside to be accessible! The facilities are tremendous.

This year CHAOS and MACE will be equal co-sponsors. CHAOS is taking primary responsibility for contacting other clubs and coordinating their participation. MACE is responsible for contacting vendors, stores and manufacturers for support and participation. Both groups will be providing people to help set up the show on Friday, 24 August.

If you would like to help, call Lance Ward (393-1357). He will be coordinating the CHAOS efforts. We will need all kinds of help. Most of the help right now will be envelope stuffing and letter writing.

If you have a favorite vendor, store or club that you would like to see at TARICON 84, then have them contact me at (517)351-3092 or write to CHAOS, PO Box 16132, Lansing, MI 48901. I have sent a letter to every club that I have an address for. I sent over 200 letters.

The cost for a club booth is only \$30.00. We want as many clubs as is possible to have a booth. The cost of a commercial sales booth will start at \$150.00. Vendors who want to show, but not sell may have a booth for only \$75.00. The commercial sales booth will be able to sell their product at the show, while the show booth may show, but may not conduct on sight sales. There will be no exclusivity this year. Any seller can sell any product that is legal for them to sell. This will make a much more interesting show.

The cost of admission will be much less this year. It will cost only \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children under 12. Children under 5 are free.

There will be special reduced rates for groups, classes, etc. that order more than 10 tickets in advance. Place your order and pay before 1 June and we will give you 50% off the normal admission price. This will make a great scout or class field trip! Have a family reunion at TARICON 84, or maybe bring your church or senior citizens group for the day. Whatever type groups you belong to, this will be a fun place to be.

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**CHAOS
ELECTIONS IN MARCH**

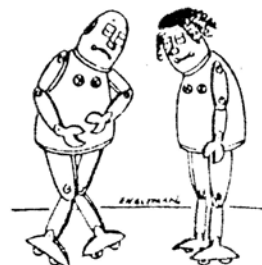
We will have elections at the March meeting. The elections should only take about 30 minutes if we are lucky. We will still have a full agenda of demonstrations and other activities.

We need some very good officers who are willing and able to serve the club. The future of the club will depend on their willingness and abilities. I would like to encourage anyone with a little free time that they can give to the club to run for an office. We need some people who want to see this club grow and get better.

I would like to emphasize that it takes time to do the job right. I would guess that I spend about 6-80 hours per week performing the duties of President. I would guess that it will take a similar amount of time for the other offices to be done properly. I am not saying this to discourage anyone, but I want everyone to have a realistic perception of what is involved. There are no paid officers in CHAOS. Everyone who serves the club does so as a volunteer.

In addition to the five elected officers, we will need about 20 people to volunteer to fill the appointed positions. Some of these jobs, like program librarian, publications librarian, newsletter editor, and advertising manager can take as much or more time than the elected positions.

If you would like to volunteer for an appointed job, then let the newly elected officers know at the next meeting. If you don't know what you might like to do, or what you are capable of doing, but you want to help, then let someone know. There are too many jobs (large and small) that need to be done and are not getting done for lack of volunteers.



*I ate too many chips at the party
last night!*

REPRINTED
FROM S.C.A.T.

**THE
COOKIE LADY**



Diana Chattulani
349-4506

"IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN"

by Ike Hudson

"In the public domain" means basically that software is free, but must retain the author's credits even if you make changes to it or compile it. I found a statement in the "Communication of the Association of Computing Machinery" that is very clear and concise. "Permission to copy without fee all or part of this material is granted provided that the copies are not made or distributed for direct commercial advantage, the copyright notice, the title of the publication and the date appear, and notice is given that copying is by permission of the Association of Computing Machinery. To copy otherwise requires a fee and/or specific permission."

In other words, you cannot sell public domain items for a profit. Our club copy fee is only to support the expansion of the public domain library, not for profit. That is one reason we work on a volunteer basis. You can make changes to public domain software or compile it, but if you use any part of the original, you must leave the author's name and copyright intact. You may add your own name if you make changes and add a copyright for your changes. You cannot sell the program even after you have changed it!"

Anyone selling public domain software for commercial advantage without the specific permission of the author puts themselves in the same position as a pirate. They may be sued by the author. In my opinion, anyone who sells public domain software for commercial advantage (profit) without the author's specific permission is worse than a pirate. And if he puts his own name on it, then he is lower than low. He is not only stealing from the author, but also from the people he sells the software to. If he puts his name on someone else's work, he is adding insult to injury.

The public domain is intended for free access by everyone. It is there to help us all and keep our costs low. Authors who put their work in the public domain forgo profits so you can benefit. They should at least have their wishes honored by keeping the cost to users low. They should be honored by having their names left on their software. Pirates are bad, but scabs are worse. Anyone who would put their name on the work of another and sell it as their own work is a SCAB!

I should add that I am not directing this tirade at commercial establishments who provide public domain software for a moderate copy charge. A token copy fee is simply paying for the use of someone's equipment or time in gathering and organizing public domain software to make it available to you. Most clubs and a few stores do this as a service to computer users. Commercial advantage is charging more than a token fee or selling it as if it were not in the public domain or as if it were your own.



ASSEMBLER S.I.G. ATR-8000 S.I.G.

The CHAOS Assembler SIG is still going, and still looking for more participants. The next meeting will be March 12, 1984, at Dick Peterson's home, 7 P.M. Call Dick (485-7727) or Wendell Proudfoot (371-3678) for detailed directions and to let us know you plan to attend. The next meeting will also include a potential new group interested in the ATR-8000 disk drive controller and CP/M computer. Lance Ward will be asked to explain the details of disk format tables and modifications he made to speed up the standard ATR disk format. Be there!

Greils Law of Erroring

In any series of calculations, errors tend to occur at the opposite end to the end at which you begin checking for errors.

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LOOK BEFORE YOU BUY

By Lance Ward

Before you shell out the bucks for a needed utility program, consult the CHAOS library listing or the librarian. You will probably be in for a nice surprise. There is almost every utility you could need. Several by our noted expert, Claus Buchholz. And Claus sure has come up with a couple of winners. One is a must for you people with tape drives. This is a DOS binary file to boot tape copier. It allows tape users to access games such as MYRIPEDE and LIVEMIRE as boot files on cassette. What this utility does is create a machine language program that emulates Atari DOS. This program loads the unchanged binary file and executes it just as DOS would. First the loader is created and written to tape, then the binary file is copied to tape. You now have a cassette bootable copy. Of course a disk drive is necessary to create the boot tape. This should be no problem, as somebody in the club should be more than happy to help.

Another one from Claus is a program that transfers disk boot files to DOS binary files. This program works in a similar fashion to the disk to tape copier mentioned above. A loader program is created and the boot file is appended to it. When the loader program is executed, it loads the remaining program as if it were a boot file ala: Fool the computer.

Last but not least, Where would you be without the trusty old Claus Copier? This gem will back-up cartridges to disk, cassette or some combination of such. If you don't have this one, get it. I'm sure you will find it useful.

There are far too many programs in our library to mention here. If you find yourself needing a specific utility program, check our library. You just might save yourself a few dollars to spend on that gadget you've been wanting.

The Claus copier is on Utility Disk # 16. The program that will copy object files from disk to tape is on Utility Disk # 15. The program that converts boot files to binary load files should be on the next utility disk to come out. Look for it soon.

CHAOS EXCELLENCE AWARDS PRESENTED

There are always a few people in any organization who give just a little more of themselves so that the organization may flourish. At the February meeting three of these individuals were honored. The categories for selection were best program submitted to the library, best article submitted to the newsletter and best (and in this case most) presentation(s) at meetings.

The recipient for the best program submitted to the library was Claus Buchholz for his program that allows tape users to dump boot files to tape and back to disk. It should be noted that Claus has written several programs for the library, including the Claus copier, and has given several excellent presentations.

Claus was given a renewal of his membership for the upcoming year. Everyone is a winner with this award.

The recipient for the best newsletter article was Rob Peck for his article on BASIC XL. Rob has written several high quality articles and has given some excellent presentations. Rob was given a copy of Compute's Mapping the Atari for his dedication to excellence.

The recipient for the best presentation was Guy Hurt. Guy has not only given some excellent presentations, but has probably given more presentations than any other member. Guy was also recognized for the amount of dedication and time he gives to the club as the program librarian. Guy was given a copy of Compute's Atari Source Book for his exceptional efforts.

All prizes were donated for this purpose by N & T Computing. The selection committee consisted of CHAOS members selected by N & T.

Recipients were eligible for selection in only one category. It should be recognized that each recipient had more than one achievement in the category for which they received an award, and they had given exceptional contributions in other areas of service. There are others who are worthy of recognition, but Rob, Guy and Claus are three members who are worthy of very special recognition for their service.

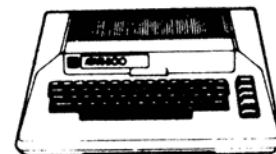
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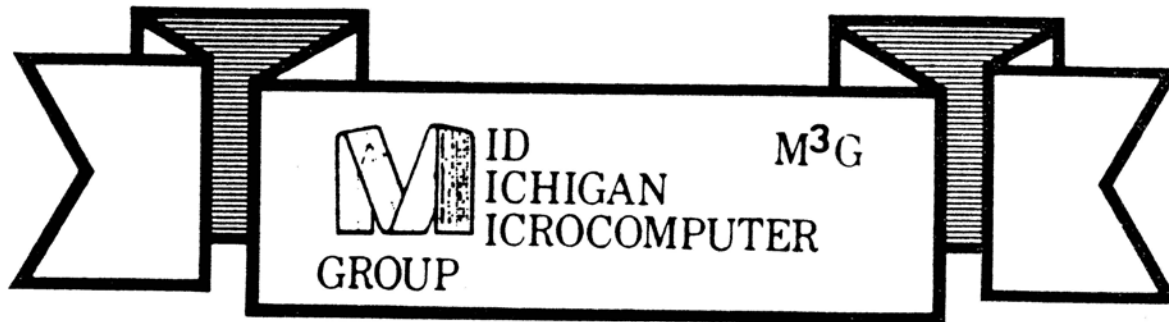
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ABOUT M3G

Mid-Michigan Microcomputer Group (M3G) is a non-profit organization of computer hobbyists, enthusiasts, and users in the Lansing and Mid-Michigan area. Formed in 1975, M3G is the oldest personal computer organization in the area. Membership in the club is open to anyone with an interest in personal computing.

MEETINGS

General membership meetings are held each month, generally on the third Thursday of each month (barring scheduling problems), at the East Lansing Public Library, at 7:30 pm. Visitors are welcome at any meeting.

DUES

Annual dues for M3G are \$12.00, for 12 consecutive months. Family memberships (two or more people at the same address, receiving only one copy of the Newsletter) are available. The first member pays full dues; additional members each pay \$1.00 per year.

To join M3G, come to any meeting, or send one year's dues with your name and address to: M3G, c/o P.O. Box 1302, East Lansing, MI 48823.

AFFILIATIONS

M3G is a member of the Midwest Affiliation of Computer Clubs (MACC), and of the Michigan Computer Consortium (MCC).

NEWSLETTER

M3G members receive ENERGY, published by the Michigan Computer Consortium, as a benefit of membership.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

M3G currently has three active Special Interest Groups: the Osborne SIG, the Heath/Zenith SIG, and the CP/M SIG. These SIGs hold additional meetings as their members wish, and may charge SIG dues in addition to M3G dues if the SIG so decides. SIG meetings are announced in the Meeting Calendar in ENERGY. Additional SIGs may be formed on any computer-related topic which M3G members may want.

OFFICERS

President.....	Dave Chun.....	394-6318
Vice President.....	Lee Hodges.....	669-3258
Secretary.....	Cheryl Tirone.....	484-3921
Treasurer.....	Lynn Wardwell.....	645-2214

MACC Trustee.....	Frank Dolinar.....	351-1899
CP/M SIG Chair.....	Greg Martin.....	484-5850
Heath/Zenith SIG.....	Bill Goodwin.....	349-9657
Osborne SIG Chair.....	Jim Pease.....	332-8746



H/Z SIG NEWS

by Bill Goodwin

I recently mentioned that I was looking for reviews of Turbo-pascal. Finally, tired of waiting, I ordered a copy for CP/M-86. Then the reviews showed up!! Luckily all of them were good. Unfortunately, the copy that arrived via UPS was for the PC, not the '100. I have returned it and am waiting for the correct disk. Watch this space for my review of this package.

At the February meeting Dennis Cullinan informed us that his schedule will no longer allow him to provide access to the State Library after the March meeting. After attending the last CP/M SIG meeting at the Foster Street Community Center I am convinced that we should hold our meetings there. Meeting there would permit us to establish a permanent time and place. Be thinking about this for the next meeting. We will have to decide then.

Speaking of the March meeting, I want to remind you to be sure to attend. We will be entertaining Terry Jensen from the national HUG. Terry is the sysop for the HUG bulletin board on Compuserve. If you've never used a modem this is NOT a meeting to miss. The time will be Sunday, March 11 at 1:00 PM. The location will be the State Library.

The SIG has reached the point where a software library should be given serious thought. The problem is the number of operating systems used by Heath machines. Counting UCSD Pascal (although I don't know anyone that has UCSD) there are five OS's. (HDOS, ZDOS, CP/M-80 & CP/M-85, CP/M-86, and UCSD) The CP/M software should probably be kept by the M3G library to avoid duplication. We can then concentrate our efforts on the three remaining OS's. Think about it because I will bring it up at our April meeting.

The next club listing in Sextant will include our SIG. Some time ago there was a notice of our meetings in Buss. This was taken from a message I had left on the HUG BBS on Compuserve. Just recently I receive a call from them asking if we still existed and would I fill out a questionnaire for them. Of course I said yes!

In the Feb. issue of Energy I mentioned a multi-user Unix BBS in Ann Arbor. It took me a long time to finally get on this one. VERY BUSY!! The system turned out to be running on a back-up computer because the original Altos had failed, losing all the conferences. I would recommend waiting a couple of months for activity to build up again.

Don't forget that we are all members of M3G and can attend the club meetings. I'm mentioning this only because there were so few of us at the elections in Feb.

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PROWRITER \$389
LOTUS 123 \$350
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A NOTE OF THANKS

It has been a privilege to serve as your President for the past two years. And I also appreciate that my campaign for past president was successful.

Elections were held as scheduled at the February meeting. Dave Chun was elected President; Lee Hodges was re-elected Vice President; Cheryl Tirone "volunteered" for secretary; and Lynn Wardwell agreed to serve once more as Treasurer. Congratulations to these!

As President for the past two years, I have been privileged to be part of a growing club. M3G has grown in these two years to over 100 members, with three SIGs. We have become a strong club, with programs and projects to interest our members and attract new members. We have joined with other area clubs to form the Michigan Computer Consortium, which publishes this newsletter. We have participated in the first Lansing Area Computer Faire, and now are planning for the Second Annual. We had a club picnic last year, and a good number of people attending the MACC Computerfest in Toronto, and a number of other special happenings. A few of our meetings were even televised through the auspices of the East Lansing Library Cable TV channel.

These were not my doing. They were the efforts of many members. I wish I could thank all of you publicly, but I don't trust myself to remember every contribution, and I wouldn't want to leave anyone out. So, to all the members of M3G, let me say simply, Thank You for your support and contributions. I hope you will join with me in giving new president Dave Chun the same support, encouragement, and effort.

Joe Werner



Addendum to: VIEW FROM THE TOP
by David T.W. Chun
new President, M³G

A funny thing happened to me at the February joint meeting of the OSIG and ~~Mid Michigan~~ ~~Microcomputer Group~~--I was elected President. This is the sort of thing that makes a person wish he had stayed home to watch 'Hill Street Blues'. I can't help but speculate that had the OSIG meeting announcement made it into the February issue of ENERGY and more of you had responded to the special mailing announcement of club elections that someone else would be filling this column space. Well you're stuck, at least for a year--now don't you wish you attended the last meeting? The officers for the year include two reruns--Vice-President, Lee Hodges, and Treasurer, Lynn Wardwell. Cheryl Tirone will be filling the now separate office of Secretary. I'm sure I speak for the rest of your team, we want to keep the momentum going.

If you didn't get to the last meeting you missed out on a grand presentation by Cheryl & Larry Tirone on the Osborne ZCPR2 system. They presented an overview of the public domain ZCPR2 system which appeared in the June and September issue of 'MICROSYSTEM'. Still difficult to visualize Larry & Cheryl scrunching ZCPR2 into the Osborn. The meeting was a double-header. Greg Martin described his new love--the new Radio Shack Model 4P portable computer. I've got to admit that I was completely side tracked by his screen display--CP/M PLUS. I just can't wait until the next CP/M SIG meeting (23 February).

Incidentally, I'm a computer user and not a 'hacker' (though, I guess, deep down I aspire some day to reach these heights). The best part of the meetings is after the business session where the special program is made and the meeting is adjourned so that we can huddle together for the exchange of information, or in my case, get help on some weighty matter from someone who knows what he's talking about. See you at the next meeting. We'll try to keep the business session short. I hope to give the maximum amount of time to Frank Dolinar who will be talking about data base management systems (with emphasis on dBaseII?). Let's all save up questions for Frank. I want to know what are second generation DBM and how this is going to affect me.



TAKING ACCOUNT OF ACCOUNTING PROGRAMS

by Richard Barclay

If you are anything like me, one of the justifications for buying your Osborne in the first place was all of the time (and money) you were going to save by using it to keep track of all your home or business finances. Just think how much easier it'd be to do your taxes. If you are like me, that was two years ago, and you are still planning on getting around to it any day now.

Well folks, it's time to get all those bills out of the shoe box. The club's public domain software library is bulging with accounting packages that will help you manage your money, just as soon as you know which one is the right one for your needs, from balancing your check book, to keeping the books for your business.

At the March 7th meeting, I'll tell you what's available from the library. Some of the questions I'll try to answer are, which files go together, how sophisticated is each package, and how well documented are they. I'll take several of the packages available, and spend some time discussing how they responded to my testing. I'll be using the "Mikie Method", as in "Let Mikie try it, he doesn't like anything.". If I can make them work, anyone can.

SWEEP

No this is not a commercial for cleaning keyboards. SWEEP is a handy dandy utility with most of the common functions of PIP plus a few extras. And the nice thing is that it does everything by menu! For example, SWEEP lets you scroll through a list of the files on a disk and select which ones you want to copy to another disk. Or if you're just browsing you can stop and look at the contents of a file, then go on to another one. This View feature of SWEEP also lets you read squeezed files and WordStar files. A quick listing of the SWEEP functions includes Copy of files, Delete files, Print files, Rename files, View files, Check disk space, change disks or disk drives and Tag files for transfer. The tag feature is especially useful if you want to copy many files from one disk to another. No need to type in names - just hit T! This may be one of the best little utilities not on the market. Yours for free in the OSIG library.

Library News

The OSIG public domain library now has a total of 66 disks of software. The software is classified under four headings:

Applications, Games, Communications and Utilities. The Utilities section is by far the largest, followed by Applications. Because of the large number of packages and programs included in the library, the catalog is on diskette, not paper. I made an experimental paper listing this month and the catalog is over 1 inch thick. As a practical matter most persons find it easier to use the disk version. We recommend that you bring two double density disks or five single density disks to the next meeting to copy the catalog. Or if you wish just bring one disk and copy the section of most interest to you. Members of OSIG can copy as much of the library as they desire for no charge. Non-members are asked to contribute \$2 for each disk copied. This money goes toward purchase of new diskettes and supplies.

Special thanks this month go to Jim Pease for helping with adding new programs to the Applications and Communications catalog. Also Cheryl Tirone deserves a medal for her excellent job of cataloging and organizing the ZCPR2 software.

Medal of Osborne

The East Lansing OSIG hereby confers the Medal of Osborne on Larry and Cheryl Tirone for their efforts (and successes) in the installation of ZCPR2 on the Osborne 1 computer.

OSIG MEETINGS

There has been a slight shifting of meeting topics but we are well set for the next few months. Keep this handy in case ENERGY doesn't make it in time next month! The May and June meeting dates have not been reserved yet.

**** COMING MEETINGS ****
* 7 March Public Domain Accounting *
* Richard Barclay *
* Otrona Attache Demo *
* Steve Nikkel *
* 11 April Public Domain Menu Programs *
* Bernard Gaffney *
* May dBase II Applications *
* Jim Pease *
* June Patching WordStar *
* Tom Stilwell-Dave Webb *
* E. Lansing Public Library - 7:30 PM *

OSIG is the Osborne Special Interest Group of M3G. All OSIG meetings are open to the public. You are welcome to bring your computer, also. Public domain software is available for copying at no charge to OSIG members. Contact Jim Pease at 332-8746 for more information.

CMTUG NEWS

Our February meeting was quite a success, on two scores, which are probably related. First, we had a number of computers on hand to compare and contrast; and second, we had more visitors than paid members in attendance. Guess they came for the demonstrations, although several visitors said they had been attracted by the nice story by Dan Poorman in the State Journal, about local computer user groups. Treasurer Sky Tribell happily reports that six of those visitors actually became CMTUG members.

That increase in membership blunted, for the moment, the one topic of club business discussion raised at the meeting: whether we could afford to continue our practice of exchanging newsletters with other user groups. This discussion was wisely referred to the executive board for resolution. When that board met it was decided to continue the exchange program unless membership (and thus club income) declined considerably. While we are on this topic, please check your mailing label right now; if the expiration date on the label is past or is soon approaching, please send your renewal check (\$12) to Sky Tribell, 3937 Trailwood, Okemos MI, 48864.

The executive board also enacted a change in CMTUG membership policy. Now CMTUG members can join our companion Consortium user group M36 for an additional \$2.00. This membership carries with it all M36 privileges except *Energy Magazine*, which you already receive as a CMTUG member. All SIGs of M36 are available to these \$2.00 members, but the SIG fees are in addition, as they are for regular M36 members. That means if you have a Model 4 with CP/M, you can gain access to M36's CP/M SIG collection of CP/M disks at greatly reduced membership rates. This reciprocal agreement is also being considered by CHAOS, the third member of the Michigan Computer Consortium. (The TI group, incidentally, has decided to drop out of the Consortium.) Reciprocity is just another of the many benefits we enjoy as a result of membership in the Michigan Computer Consortium. It costs CMTUG very little, and it saves our members a lot.

Our next meeting, March 4th, following the pattern we have established, will feature software demonstration. Database management software is the topic for March, and Tandy's *Profile III+* will be demonstrated alongside the popular *AIDS III* package. We had thought Charley Butler would come in to demonstrate *dBase II* on the Model III, but Charley reports there were some bugs in the program he received from Ashton-Tate. It has been removed from the market and is not expected to be reintroduced.

The April meeting promises to be even more exciting, as we will be on hardware again. Those at the February meeting were virtually unanimous in their interest in Apple's new Macintosh computer, so we have scheduled a demo by Jack McGinnis of Inacomp Computer Center. To accommodate this scheduling, we have had to change the meeting date to April 8th, the second Sunday of the month. Please note this change.

The Mac will not be the only product demonstrated at the April meeting. Ed Brown, the very cooperative manager of the Radio Shack Computer Department at the West Saginaw store, will also be on hand to show off the new disk drive/CRT interface for the Model 100 lap-size computer. Looks like Tandy is not resting on its laurels with this revolutionary portable.

Finally, now is the time to start thinking about and planning for the Second Annual Computer Faire. It will be held on Saturday, May 12th, from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Foster Community Center on Foster Street in Lansing. We will probably share a room with the Color Computer Group in showing off what our machines can do, and explaining why CMTUG membership is important and valuable. We will need volunteers to bring hardware and software to demonstrate; we'll need people to agree to staff the exhibits according to a schedule which will permit everyone time to see the other exhibits; and we really ought to have an attractive brochure on CMTUG for visitors to take away with them. This could generate many new members for us, and thus new lifeblood for the club. If you can help with any of these tasks, please contact Dennis Cullinan (351-2175 home; 373-7513 work). Otherwise we may be contacting you to ask your cooperation and support for an event that is destined to become the most important single force in local personal computing.

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ELECTRONIC MAIL COMES OF AGE - Perhaps you have seen the advertisements on television for MCI Mail. MCI Mail is the new electronic mail service from MCI, the alternate long distance telephone company that has AT&T so worried. Apparently, having busted AT&T's monopoly on long distance phone service, they are now going to move in on the post office's territory and start transmitting mail electronically.

The nice thing about the MCI Mail system is that it seems to have been designed with the personal computer user in mind. The system has been made easy to use, and so far seems to be quite cost effective. However, I don't think that MCI has promoted it in such a way that personal computer users realize the advantages to signing up for such a service. I think that all personal computer users that have telecommunications capability should register with MCI Mail, even if you don't intend to use it right away. It doesn't cost anything to register, and registering makes you "known" to the MCI Mail system, so that anyone can send you an "instant" letter. The "instant" letter is a computer-to-computer letter, and costs only \$1.00 for the first "electronic ounce" (7500 characters).

Registering for MCI Mail is simple. Within the U.S.A., you may call (800) MCI-2255 (in Washington, D.C. call 833-8484) and talk to someone at MCI Mail. However, you have a computer, right? So, why not register electronically? To do so, set up your terminal program for 8 bits, no parity, 1 stop bit, and either 110, 300, or 1200 baud depending on your equipment. Then call MCI Mail at (800) 323-7751. When you hear the computer answer the phone and send carrier tone, connect your MODEM and press <ENTER> (or <RETURN>, if you're not using a TRS-80). Press it once if you're using 1200 baud, twice if using 110 or 300 baud. When asked for a user name, enter "REGISTER". When asked for a password, enter "REGISTER" again (the password will not be echoed back to your display). Then simply answer the questions as they are displayed on your computer.

You can register for either a personal or company account. The main difference is that if you register for a company account, you can obtain separate user I.D.s and accounts for each of your employees, yet have them all billed in one monthly statement. A personal account is for one user only, and is billed to that user personally. In either case, registration is FREE - you don't pay anything until you actually send a letter.

You will be given the option of selecting a user name other than the one that would normally be used for you. For example, if your name is John Smith, your user name would be JSMITH (your first initial plus your last name). You might be tempted to use something else. Don't. The reason is that if anyone wants to send you "instant" mail, they will usually try to send it using your first initial and last name. If you're registered some other way, there is no way for anyone to get your correct user name unless you have previously told them what it is. If you have a company and want a user name that is distinctive to your company, set up a separate User I.D. with that user name (remember, additional accounts don't cost anything until you actually send mail from them). But make sure that your personal account uses your first initial and last name, so that others can send you mail.

What if there's already a John Smith on the system, I hear you ask? That's okay - user names are not unique. What will happen is that when someone tries to leave electronic mail for JSMITH, a list of all possible "J. Smiths" (names and addresses) will be displayed, and the sender will be asked to select which is the proper addressee. Each user also receives a seven digit MCI Mail ID that is unique, and can be used instead of the user name to specify a particular individual without having to pick out the proper person from a list of those with the same first initial and last name.

Once you have registered, there will be about a two-week wait until you receive a welcome package from MCI Mail. This will contain information such as your user name, password, customer number, MCI Mail ID, and customer service numbers for MCI Mail. It also contains a "Welcome Kit and Service Guide", a "MCI Mail Service Guide", a "Basic User's Guide", a "Basic Quick Reference Card", and information on advanced services available through the MCI Mail system. It also contains information on the Dow Jones News/Retrieval service, which is also available (charged according to number of minutes used and time of day) through the MCI Mail service.

One thing that you might expect is that MCI Mail would be accessed through the MCI long distance telephone network. If you thought that, you'd be wrong. At the time of this writing, only 33 major cities have access to MCI Mail through a local, seven-digit

telephone number, and it is not the same number used for MCI long distance phone service. However, outlying areas can use a toll-free telephone number to access MCI Mail - the number is (800) 323-7751, and it should work from anywhere within the continental United States. Once you are on MCI Mail, you can type HELP PHONES to find out if a local number is available to serve your area.

Once you have registered with MCI Mail, there are four kinds of letters you can send:

1) An "instant" letter. This is a "computer-to-computer" letter. You leave it on the system, and it is immediately available to the addressee the next time he or she signs onto the MCI Mail system. Cost is \$1.00 for the first "electronic ounce" (7500 characters).

2) A standard MCI letter. This is used to send mail to folks that aren't registered with MCI Mail. The letter is sent electronically to an MCI Mail postal center near the recipient, where it is laser-printed on high-quality white bond paper, placed in an orange MCI Mail envelope, and deposited with the U.S. Mail, which hopefully will get it to the addressee by the next day. Cost is \$2.00 for the first "electronic ounce" (three laser-printed pages), \$1.00 for each additional.

3) MCI Mail Overnight Letter. This is hand delivered by noon of the following business day, in most areas of the country (except for areas that are really back in the boondocks - like Sault Ste. Marie, so don't bother trying to send me an overnight letter!). Cost is \$6.00 for first "electronic ounce" (three laser-printed pages), \$1.00 for each additional.

4) MCI Mail Four-Hour Letter. Available to major cities only, this is hand delivered within four hours of being sent. Cost is \$25.00 for first "electronic ounce" (three laser-printed pages), still only \$1.00 for each additional "ounce".

The "instant" letter service is probably the one that most personal computer users would prefer to use. Keep in mind that any ASCII text can be sent in an MCI Mail letter. That includes BASIC programs saved in ASCII format, word-processor ASCII text files, Editor-Assembler source code programs that have had the tab characters converted to spaces, or machine language programs that have been converted to ASCII format using the HEX/CMD program included with MODEM80, or a similar program. Utility programs that convert various types of files to ASCII are available in the download sections of many of the Bulletin Board Systems around the country. When you have converted your file to ASCII format (if necessary), you can compute how much it will cost to transmit by figuring \$1.00 per 7500 characters (go ahead, write yourself a short utility program to count characters in a file!).

You may say, well, why should I use MCI Mail when I already have CompuServe or The Source? Simple. You may save money. With MCI Mail, your "letter" isn't actually "sent" until you tell the system to send it - and in the meantime, it doesn't cost you a dime. How many times have you tried to upload to CompuServe and had to wait for the computer, struggle with the FILGE editor, re-transmit a file that was garbled in transmission, and generally frog around with the system, while time (and money) was ticking away? That won't happen with MCI Mail, because you're only charged for what you actually send. If someone in your house picks up an extension phone while you're in the process of uploading a file, simply abandon the upload, discard the "draft" copy of your "letter", and start over.

I mentioned the FILGE editor of CompuServe. If you hate it, you'll love the CREATE command of MCI Mail. Simply type CREATE, specify whom the letter is to go to, and begin typing your letter (or uploading it, if you've already prepared it offline). After you've typed (or uploaded) the last line, type a slash ("/") on a line by itself. You can then edit the draft, send it, or abandon it. User-friendly menus guide you through every step. If you enter the CREATE function and discover that the addressee isn't "known" to the system, you have the option of sending a laser-printed letter by entering the appropriate address information, or aborting the letter by entering a slash ("/") at the "TO:", "CC:", or "SUBJECT:" prompts. So, if you're not sure whether someone is registered with MCI Mail, you can still attempt to send them an "instant" letter, and just abort the attempt if you find that they aren't an MCI Mail user (and you don't want to send them a laser-printed letter).

The only caution that must be observed when using CREATE is to properly terminate each line with a carriage return (the ENTER key on the TRS-80). MCI Mail will let you continue to type forever without inserting the <CR>, but if you don't insert the carriage returns, one "forced" <CR> will be sent automatically

after each 256 characters when retransmitting your letter - even if the break occurs in the middle of a word! If you are sending a laser-printed letter to someone, your lines should be as close to 80 characters in length as possible (but must NOT be longer than 80 characters) for best appearance of the final copy. TRS-80 Model I and III users that must contend with a 64 column display may find it more convenient to use a word-processing program to create the body of their document, then save it in "final copy" format (using 80 characters per line maximum) to an ASCII text file, and then upload the text file to MCI Mail.

Uploading text from a disk file to MCI Mail is made easy by the fact that the CREATE function supports XON/XOFF protocol. This means that if you are using a terminal program such as MODEM80 to upload a text file, the terminal program will automatically stop and wait whenever the MCI Mail text buffer is full. This in effect means that you can transmit text at full speed, with no lost characters. Note, however, that XON/XOFF protocol is NOT an error detection or correction protocol - it is simply a way of automatically getting the sending computer to stop and wait when MCI Mail's text buffer is full. It would be nice if MCI Mail had some way of supporting the CP/M XMODEM protocol for error detection and correction (as well as allowing files with control characters to be sent), but MCI Mail is primarily a mail service, and was not really designed for the transfer of computer programs.

Another side effect of MCI Mail being designed for letters rather than sending programs is that when your recipient gets a program or text file you send, he will probably have to load it into a word-processing program and remove extraneous system prompts, carriage returns, and other text that is not part of the program. This can be minimized, however, if he will (1) Use the ACCOUNT command of MCI Mail to temporarily set the terminal line length to the longest possible setting (132), to help reduce the number of program lines that will be broken up by extra carriage returns, and (2) Use the PRINT command, rather than the READ command, to PRINT the program without stopping every few lines to give the operator a chance to read it (and leaving user prompts in the middle of the program listing). The program can then be downloaded to a disk file, and any text placed before or after the actual program can be eliminated by using a word-processing program (or other utility program that lets you selectively kill lines in a downloaded file - this may also be available on your local Bulletin Board System).

MCI Mail has some nice features that make life easy for the user. All "mail" is associated with a "desk". Incoming mail can be either in your "inbox" (mail you haven't read yet) or on your "desk" (for mail you've already read, but may wish to read again - as, for example, if you tried to download the "mail" and were for some reason unsuccessful on the first try). Outgoing mail can be either in the form of a "draft" (the letter you're currently creating, or a letter you've created but haven't sent yet - you can only have one "draft" in the works at a time), or can be in your "outbox" (this is mail you've already sent, but may wish to review). Mail in your "inbox" is never automatically cleared - it stays there until you read it. Mail in any other location is automatically cleared after being there for 24 hours (presumably, that's when the electronic "janitor" comes in and cleans your desk).

A "draft" copy you're working on is not lost if you are accidentally disconnected from the system. Simply sign back on within 24 hours, and you can use the editor to finish creating your letter. No more sinking feeling after you've just typed in five pages of text, and the dog knocks the extension phone off the hook and breaks the connection!

Other nice features include the ability to send "carbon copies" of a letter to as many recipients as you wish. And, if you use MCI Mail to send hardcopy letters, you can for a small fee register your personal or company letterhead and/or your signature with MCI Mail, and these can then be laser-printed on the letters you send, in effect meaning that you can electronically send letters with your signature and company letterhead. You can even register multiple letterheads or signatures if you are an "advanced" user. Once you've registered them, there's never an extra charge to actually use them in a letter you're sending.

It is possible to get confirmation that a letter you've sent has been delivered (or actually read, in the case of an "instant" letter), by using the RECEIPT option. The confirmation message appears in your "inbox". There is no extra charge for this service!

What is so great about this service is that there are no minimum charges, no monthly fees, no storage fees, no

connect-time charges, and no charge to read mail sent to you. The only thing you pay for is mail that you actually send to others (and for Dow Jones News/Retrieval, should you choose to access that service).

If you are willing to pay \$10 per month, you can become an "advanced" MCI Mail user. There are several potential advantages to becoming an advanced user, including:

1) You can use "Command:" prompts instead of menus. As an advanced user, you get the control and flexibility to enter commands and options when you want them, the way you want them.

2) You can address a number of people at once with a mailing list. Create a mailing list with everyone's name on it -- and send your message TO: the listname. A single entry -- but everyone on the list gets the message. A list can have any number of electronic and postal addresses alike.

3) You can avoid the multiple listing for similar names; create a personal "address book". If you always have to select your Joe Smith from the display of other Joe Smiths on the system -- create a mailing list just for Joe's name, and use it every time you need to address him.

4) It's possible for an advanced user to forward a message to someone else. When you want to pass along some information you've received, you can forward a copy of the message, including a "cover letter" from you with your own comments about what you're forwarding.

5) You can choose a different "style" of correspondence. In addition to the business-letter style on MCI Mail, you can opt to send a more casual MEMO, where the paper copy looks just like the electronic copy, with the complete envelope including all TO and CC recipient names.

6) It's possible to use another letterhead and/or another signature. An advanced user can register additional signature and letterhead graphics. Add the personal yet professional touch to your MEMOs and LETTERs using a logo and signature that reflect a formal or informal style.

7) You get a bigger Mailbox, with longer message retention. Advanced service allows up to 250 kilobytes of storage, as well as 5 days' storage for your messages and DRAFTS. If you need more storage, MCI Mail will increase your Mailbox by another 250 kilobytes at \$10/month; there's no limit to the size Mailbox you may have.

[I cannot tell a lie, I downloaded the info on MCI Mail's advanced user features, and worked the text into this article using my word processor. Computers tend to make one a bit lazy.]

Additional services are also available for business users, such as a volume mail service that can be used to reach many people fast, and "reverse charge mailboxes". A reverse charge mailbox is the MCI Mail equivalent of "business reply" envelope (or a toll-free telephone number), in that whenever an "instant" letter is sent to the User I.D. associated with the reverse charge mailbox, the recipient pays the "postage" for the letter instead of the sender. Some companies now pay close to \$2.00 per incoming call to "toll-free" telephone answering services (these answering services will take orders for your company on their (800) service INWATS telephone lines, but will usually take only a limited amount of information per call and will charge extra if additional information must be obtained from the caller), but if customers could be encouraged to order electronically through the MCI Mail system, the same type of "toll-free" service could be provided for only \$1.00 per "instant" letter (of 7500 characters or less) received. Of course, most companies would want to use their reverse charge mailbox for orders only (or perhaps for communication with "preferred" clients or customers, or with their distributors), and have another User I.D. (that is NOT a reverse charge mailbox) for receipt of "regular" mail.

Starting in early 1984, MCI Mail goes international. MCI Mail users will be able to send and receive MCI Mail messages to and from all Telex addresses worldwide. Every MCI Mail subscriber will have a Telex number. Telex messages sent to this number will be placed in your MCI Mailbox along with your "instant" letters. When you send MCI Mail messages, you will be able to include Telex addresses just as you may now enter postal addresses. These messages will be delivered by MCI International (MCII) through the Telex networks.

Once MCI Mail Telex Service becomes available, your Telex number would be 650 followed by your MCI Mail ID number. For example, my MCI Mail ID number is 102-7413, so my Telex number will be 6501027413. There is no charge to receive Telex messages, just as there is no charge to receive an "instant"

letter. If you choose to send a Telex message, it will be sent at "competitive Telex rates."

Any complaints about MCI Mail? Only a few minor problems. For one thing, it's sometimes just a bit difficult to find the information you need in the "Basic User's Guide". For example, if you wanted to know how to change your terminal line length setting, you might not know that you have to look under "Changing Your MCI Mail Account Information". An index in the back of the book would be nice.

Also, when you send a letter via regular mail and find it necessary to also send money, you can enclose a check or money order, and you can't do that with MCI Mail. You can, of course, use a credit card when you order from a business (if you even have a credit card, and I for one don't believe that everyone should be required to have a credit card to do business!). It would be nice if you could somehow register a check form (with your own personal bank account number encoded on it) that could be electronically laser-printed and sent (by U.S. mail) when you need to send money. A function of the "instant" letter could confirm that a check had been printed and was in the mail, so that "instant" letter recipients would know that they would receive the check no later than the next day in most cases. When used with other types of MCI Mail, the check could be enclosed with the MCI Mail letter!

But for the present, I see MCI Mail as a service that has great potential for personal computer users. We have registered and are on the system, so if you want to submit a program or text file to Northern Bytes, send it directly to me (user name: JDECKER, MCI Mail ID: 102-7413). You can also use MCI Mail to place a Visa or Mastercard order with The Alternate Source (user name: TAS, MCI Mail ID: 109-7407), or to send a letter specifically to Charley Butler at TAS (user name: CBUTLER, MCI Mail ID: 113-3644). If you find any new or unique uses for this system, let us know and we'll let others know.

Computer Mart was a good name for the past,
INACOMP is a great name for the future!



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*A name to
remember*

Auto Log On to Dow Jones on the Model 100

Donald Parson
4 Driftwood Landing
Delray Beach, FL 33441

I have rewritten the Auto Log-on program which appears on page 199 of the Model 100 Owner's Manual to enable the user to input the requests directly.

You will recall that in the original version the requests had to be written into the program before it was run. This revision will allow up to five requests to be entered from the keyboard, but that number could be increased.

```

5 MAXFILES=3
10 INPUT "QUOTE: ";A$
20 INPUT "LAST ITEM ";M$
30 IF M$="Y" THEN 150
40 INPUT "QUOTE: ";B$
50 INPUT "LAST ITEM ";N$
60 IF N$="Y" THEN 150
70 INPUT "QUOTE: ";C$
80 INPUT "LAST ITEM ";O$
90 IF O$="Y" THEN 150
100 INPUT "QUOTE: ";D$
110 INPUT "LAST ITEM ";P$
120 IF P$="Y" THEN 150
130 INPUT "QUOTE (final item) ";E$
150 Q$=","
155 ST$=CHR$(19)
160 PH$="(telephone#)<?:A=DOW1;;?WDJNS~M?
    @(password)~M>"
170 H=VARPTR(PH$)
180 AD=PEEK(M+1)+(PEEK(M+2)*256)
190 CALL 21200
200 CALL 21293,0,AD
210 CLS
220 OPEN"MDM:7IID" FOR INPUT AS 1
230 OPEN"MDM:7IID" FOR OUTPUT AS 2
240 OPEN"QUOTE.DO" FOR APPEND AS 3
250 Z$=INPUT$(1,1)
260 IF Z$<>ST$ THEN 250
270 PRINT#3,DATE$;" ";TIME$
280 PRINT "STARTING QUOTES REQUEST"
320 PRINT#2,Q$;A$
330 GOSUB 4000
340 IF M$="Y" THEN 500
350 PRINT#2,Q$;B$
360 GOSUB 4000
370 IF N$="Y" THEN 500
380 PRINT#2,Q$;C$
390 GOSUB 4000
400 IF O$="Y" THEN 500
410 PRINT#2,Q$;D$
420 GOSUB 4000
500 PRINT "SIGNING OFF"
510 ST$=CHR$(7)
520 PRINT#2,"DISC"
530 GOSUB 4000
540 CLOSE
550 CALL 21179
560 END
4000 Z$=INPUT$(1,1)
4010 IF Z$=ST$ THEN RETURN
4020 PRINT#3,Z$;
4030 GOTO 4000

```

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WorkSlate offers you a date-book calendar with alarm memory to remind you of important appointments. WorkSlate can also automatically dial from your phone list, answer the phone with a recorded message, and act as a personal speaker phone. And its built-in modem lets you hook up with other computers and the ever-expanding world of electronic information

services to access stock quotes, airline reservations or company data bases.

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With WorkSlate you can build your own worksheets or choose from a selection of microcassette Taskware that makes the job easier still. These problem-specific application tapes contain pre-built worksheets to save you time and let you focus on the business at hand. You can even modify the worksheets to suit your needs.

There is Taskware available to help you do taxes, to plan and manage travel schedules, to analyze loan feasibility, to analyze portfolio investments, to plan and

The specs tell the whole story.

WorkSlate

Compact Size: 1" H x 11 1/4" W x 8 1/2" D, just over 3 lbs. including batteries
Display: Easy-to-read liquid crystal display, 46 characters per line, by 16 lines
Keyboard: 60 keys, including typewriter and calculator pad
Memory: WorkSlate—twelve 8 1/2" x 11" pages; Microcassette—120 pages (60 per side)
Microcassette Player/Recorder: Records digital and voice through built-in microphone; includes digital counter
Power Source: 4 "AA" Batteries, A/C adaptor or NiCad rechargeable battery
Communications: Built-in modem with auto-answer, auto-dial capability

MicroPrinter

Compact Size: 1 3/4" H x 6 1/2" W x 8 1/2" D
Characters Per Line: 40 or 80
Power Source: WorkSlate batteries or A/C adaptor

389-478NF WorkSlate \$1,195⁰⁰

Complete with:

- AC adaptor
- Modular phone jack cable
- Soft case
- Teach-me instruction tapes
- Blank microcassette
- Owner's manual and reference guide
- Toll-free assistance number



ON THE ROAD... WORKSLATE



IN THE OFFICE... WORKSLATE AND MICROPRINTER

manage your family's estate, to prepare and analyze financial statements—the list is growing every day.

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The WorkSlate is so remarkably portable that, in addition to using it at the office, you'll find it perfect for using on planes, in hotels, in a meeting and at home. In addition, WorkSlate's MicroPrinter lets you print your worksheets whenever and wherever you need them. Prints on plain paper, 40 or 80 columns.

A very special product for very special people.

Convergent Technologies is one of America's fastest growing high technology microcomputer companies.

389-486ND MicroPrinter \$249.00 (8.95)

Complete with:

- One roll of paper
- One set of pens
- Soft case
- Owner's manual

Taskware Tapes:

- 389-494NA Personal Tax**
- 389-502NA Travel Pak**
- 389-510NA Sales Reporter**
- 389-528NA Loan Analyzer**
- 389-536NA Portfolio Analysis**
- 389-544NA Estate Planning**
- 389-551NA Financial Statements**
- 389-569NA Cash Management**
- 389-577NA Marketing Management**
- 389-585NA Business Tax**

WorkSlate, MicroPrinter and Taskware are trademarks of Convergent Technologies, Inc.; subject to FCC regulation and approval.

WorkSlate—expressly for you from Convergent Technologies

Magazine Index

Case Larsen
115 Bixby Drive
Milpitas, CA 95035

The first program creates an index of magazine articles by Category, Title, Author, Code, Year, Page Number and Month of the article.

```
5 CLEAR 500
10 OPEN "O",1,"FILENAME/EXT"
20 INPUT "CATEGORY";C$
30 INPUT "TITLE";T$
40 INPUT "AUTHOR";A$
50 INPUT "CODE";CD$
55 INPUT "YEAR";YR
57 INPUT "PAGE NUMBER";P
58 INPUT "MONTH";MO$
60 INPUT "IS THIS RIGHT";ZZ$
70 IF ZZ$ = "Y" THEN 90
80 IF ZZ$ = "N" THEN 20
85 IF ZZ$ <> "Y" OR ZZ$ <> "N" THEN 60
90 PRINT #1,C$; ", "; T$; ", "; A$; ", "; CD$; ", "; YR;
  ", "; P; ", "; MO$
100 INPUT "AGAIN Y/N";ZZ$
110 IF ZZ$ = "Y" THEN 20
120 IF ZZ$ = "N" THEN CLOSE
  : END
130 IF ZZ$ <> "Y" OR ZZ$ <> "N" THEN 100
```

If you wish to add more records to the file, change the file mode in Line 10 to extend (E) instead of sequential output (O).

```
10 OPEN "E",1,"FILENAME/EXT"
```

The following program accesses the index by Category, Title, Author, Code, Year, Page Number, or Month of the article.

```
5 CLEAR 5000
10 CLOSE
  : OPEN "I",1,"FILENAME/EXT"
20 INPUT "WHICH ONE C(ATEGORY), T(ITLE), A(UTHOR),
  CO(DE), Y(EA)R, P(AGE NUMBER), M(ONTH),
  E(ND)";Q$
40 IF Q$ = "C" THEN GOTO 100
50 IF Q$ = "T" THEN GOTO 200
60 IF Q$ = "A" THEN GOTO 300
70 IF Q$ = "CO" THEN GOTO 400
80 IF Q$ = "YR" THEN GOTO 500
90 IF Q$ = "P" THEN GOTO 600
95 IF Q$ = "M" THEN GOTO 700
97 IF Q$ = "E" THEN END
98 GOTO 20
100 INPUT "CATEGORY";W$
105 IF EOF(1) THEN PRINT "END OF INDEX FILE"
  : GOTO 10
```

```
110 INPUT #1,C$,T$,A$,CD$,YR,P,MO$
120 IF W$ = C$ THEN PRINT "CATEGORY: ";C$
  : PRINT "TITLE: ";T$
  : PRINT "AUTHOR: ";A$
  : PRINT "CODE: ";CD$
  : PRINT "YEAR: ";YR
  : PRINT "PAGE NUMBER: ";P
  : PRINT "MONTH: ";MO$
130 GOTO 105
200 INPUT "TITLE";X$
205 IF EOF(1) THEN PRINT "END OF INDEX FILE"
  : GOTO 10
210 INPUT #1,C$,T$,A$,CD$,YR,P,MO$
220 IF X$ = T$ THEN PRINT "CATEGORY: ";C$
  : PRINT "TITLE: ";T$
  : PRINT "AUTHOR: ";A$
  : PRINT "CODE: ";CD$
  : PRINT "YEAR: ";YR
  : PRINT "PAGE NUMBER: ";P
  : PRINT "MONTH: ";MO$
230 GOTO 205
300 INPUT "AUTHOR";Y$
305 IF EOF(1) THEN PRINT "END OF INDEX FILE"
  : GOTO 10
310 INPUT #1,C$,T$,A$,CD$,YR,P,MO$
320 IF Y$ = A$ THEN GOSUB 1000
330 GOTO 305
400 INPUT "CODE";Z$
405 IF EOF(1) THEN PRINT "END OF INDEX FILE"
  : GOTO 10
410 INPUT #1,C$,T$,A$,CD$,YR,P,MO$
420 IF Z$ = CD$ THEN GOSUB 1000
430 GOTO 405
500 INPUT "YEAR";U
505 IF EOF(1) THEN PRINT "END OF INDEX FILE"
  : GOTO 10
510 INPUT #1,C$,T$,A$,CD$,YR,P,MO$
520 IF U = YR THEN GOSUB 1000
530 GOTO 505
600 INPUT "PAGE NUMBER";V
605 IF EOF(1) THEN PRINT "END OF INDEX FILE"
  : GOTO 10
610 INPUT #1,C$,T$,A$,CD$,YR,P,MO$
620 IF V = P THEN GOSUB 1000
630 GOTO 605
700 INPUT "MONTH";L$
705 IF EOF(1) THEN PRINT "END OF INDEX FILE"
  : GOTO 10
710 INPUT #1,C$,T$,A$,CD$,YR,P,MO$
720 IF L$ = MO$ THEN GOSUB 1000
730 GOTO 705
1000 PRINT "CATEGORY: ";C$
  : PRINT "TITLE: ";T$
  : PRINT "AUTHOR: ";A$
  : PRINT "CODE: ";CD$
  : PRINT "YEAR: ";YR
  : PRINT "PAGE NUMBER: ";P
  : PRINT "MONTH: ";MO$
1010 RETURN
```

Short Directory Program

Dr. Thomas R. W. Longstaff
39 Pleasant Street
Waterville, ME 04901

I've been a TRS-80 user since 1979 when I first took a Model I to the Upper Galilee (Israel) for use in building a data base for on-site processing of information at an archaeological site. I have recently "up-graded" to a Model III system with which I am very happy.

Although I have purchased some good software packages, I have not yet replaced the "Master Directory" program which I purchased for my Model I. A few days ago I wanted a list of the programs and files which I had saved to disk and it

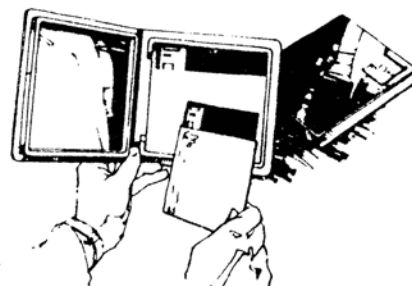
occurred to me that I could produce such a list quickly and easily with a simple program. It may surprise some new users to see just how easy the task was! The "one liner" below allows the user to insert disks sequentially into Drive 1 of a two drive system and produce hard copy directories for each diskette in turn. The program could easily be adapted for a single drive system.

```
10 FOR X = 1 TO 50
  : LPRINT
  : LPRINT "DIRECTORY FOR DISKETTE NO. "; X
  : CMD "Z", "ON"
  : CMD "D:1"
  : CMD "Z", "OFF"
  : INPUT "CHANGE DISKETTE IN DRIVE 1; PRESS ENTER
  TO CONTINUE; BREAK TO END"; C
  : NEXT
```

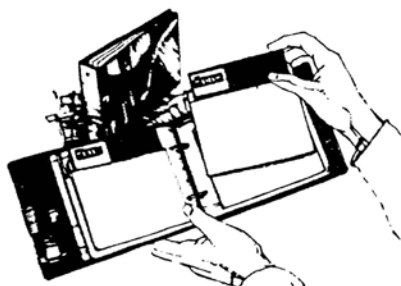
TRS-80 Microcomputer News, February 1984



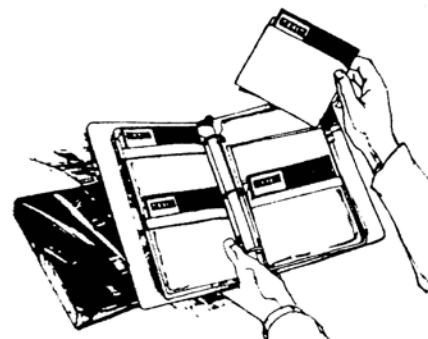
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INSIDE FACTS

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THE SCREEN SCENE

We've discussed disk drives, printers, old computers, and new computers so far. Therefore, it's about time we deal with the 'peripheral' very few of us can do without: the CRT monitor. If you've got a lap-size portable these remarks won't directly concern you, but 98% of microcomputers use TV-like displays. Let's use 'CRT' as a generic term for this item. The initials stand for *Cathode Ray Tube*.

There are two types of CRT in use with micros: video monitors and television receivers. TV sets are used with micros for the same reasons that cassette recorders are: they are cheap, readily available, and they are adequate. But, again like cassette recorders, they are not the ideal solution to the problem at hand. The most desirable CRT is a monitor designed expressly for display of computer output. TV sets are designed to receive and display radio frequency (RF) signals, and although their computer output display is passable, it is far from the best. Some of the newest TVs are coming out with jacks for computer, VCR or video game connections. These jacks bypass the RF stage in the TV, and the results are much improved resolution, both for graphics and for text display.

There is a new product, in kit form, that makes it possible to modify TV sets so the RF stage can be bypassed. It is called the *Vamp DVM-1 Computer/TV Interface Kit*. It was the subject of a hardware review in *Byte* magazine for January 1984 (pp. 339-44). The kit itself seems easy enough to build, but as the reviewer says, "if you are not qualified to service your TV set, you will need help" installing the assembled device in your TV. Bob Olson, of Rogers Electronic Repair estimated this installation would cost about \$30. When added to the \$64.95 kit price this would seem to make sense only if the DVM-1 were installed in a color TV; you can buy a new monochrome monitor for \$85 and up.

If you go ahead and buy a monochrome monitor, you are probably already aware that there are three choices before you: black & white, black & green, and black & amber. The reasons for this choice of colors is *ergonomics*, which translates from the Greek roots as something like, 'measurement of the body'. That is, 'let's fit this machine to the human, instead of forcing the human to make a big accommodation to the machine'. In making the measurements it was found that black & white images are more fatiguing to the eyes than amber or green on black. Amber screens are very popular in Europe, while green is big here; there doesn't seem to be much practical ergonomic difference between the green and amber screens. Those of you who already have black & white monitors can get green plexiglas panes to place over your CRT screens to simulate a 'real' greenscreen. I paid \$10 for mine.

Another ergonomic factor with CRT screens is whether or not they reflect room light into the operator's eyes. This can really limit the time you can spend at the keyboard before fatigue and irritation starts causing careless mistakes. The latest models of CRT units have either a matte finish or a fine nylon film on the CRT surface, or they are mounted on swivel bases which permit angling the screen to avoid most reflections. Some have both. Again, these features can be added if your CRT doesn't have them. Swivel bases are advertised in many magazines, and Radio Shack, for one, offers a nylon mesh frame to place over an otherwise reflective CRT screen (\$16.95).

That's it for this set of *Inside Facts* We've discussed a lot of hardware topics since our first column in August 1983. I welcome your suggestions for future topics. Send them to me c/o *Energy Magazine*, Box 1302, East Lansing MI 48823.

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